

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 26, 2021

The birth of Jesus Christ was the pivotal point of all history. It marked “God with us” forever. Those who would accept Christ will experience God forever. As Gentiles we had no hope of experiencing any of this (Ephesians 2:12). Christ birth gave us hope. Christ must be the “must” in Christmas because His arrival marked the new beginning.

Lindsay’s father was a distant and difficult man. His father worked him especially hard during the holidays. Lindsay was given extra chores at the family ranch, and his old man whipped him if he didn’t work hard enough. Lindsay lived in fear of these beatings, which often drew blood. But even worse were the verbal floggings, the names, the insults, and the belittling put-downs. They seemed especially harsh at Christmas.

The memories stayed with him all his life, tormenting him like demons every December. One friend said, “Lindsay was never able to find happiness. He became a hard-drinking hell-raiser who went from woman to woman and couldn’t find peace or success.”

Finally at age fifty-one, he angrily watched Bing Crosby’s “White Christmas” one last time, and then put a gun to his head and a bullet through his brain. “I hated Christmas because of Pop, and I always will,” he once said. “It brings back the pain and fear I suffered as a child, and if I ever do myself in, it will be at Christmastime. That will show the world what I think of Bing Crosby’s “White Christmas.” Ironically, sadly, he was Bing’s son – Lindsay Crosby.” (Written by Robert J. Morgan “Stories, Illustrations and Quotes”)

This terrible bizarre story is itself a parable of what happens when we cut Christmas of its true glory. If only Lindsay had really understood that Jesus Christ was born to die for our sins; though they are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. “Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18). God through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as a result of Christ birth and death, makes us into a brand “new creation so that old things will pass away and behold all things become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Don’t let others steal the true joy of Christmas by removing the source of joy, Jesus Christ. His gift is the gift of life. This is the season that should rekindle our hope in Him for strength, joy, love, and a lasting future. Don’t be the grinch this season or this year.

What would we do differently if Jesus were to physically arrive on Christmas day at our doorstep?



UPCOMING Events



Prayer Revival 2022
January 4th-6th | 7:00pm

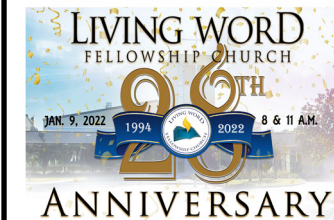
Join Living Word Fellowship Church as we bring in the year of at our annual Prayer Revival! Our special guest will be Pastor Rodney Maiden of Providence Baptist Church of Cleveland.

Parents! Revival at Living Word includes our kids as well. Tues: special guest Ricardo Miller. Wed: Cooking with Monica C. Thurs: Movie Night & Popcorn. Mark your calendar!



Church Wide Fast

Our annual fast begins **Sunday, January 2nd** and ends on **Saturday, January 8th**. See your deacon family for more information.



Church Anniversary

Living Word Fellowship Church is proud to celebrate it's 28th Year Anniversary of ministry. God has brought us from a mighty long way and has greatly displayed His favor, glory and grace to us during these 28 years of ministry. We would love for you to celebrate this joyous occasion with us by attending our worship service with special guest speaker, Pastor Rodney Maiden.

January 9th | 8am, & 11am



Impact's Men Gathering

Attention all men! Join us on **Friday, January 7th @ 7:00 pm** at Light of the World Christian Fellowship.

For more information, contact Jeff Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Duane Lawrence

Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

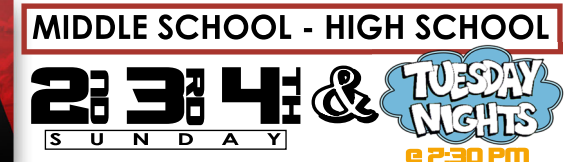
Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Ages 2—6th grade



SERMON OUTLINE

Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

A. Their pursuit was to seek Him (Jesus) – v. 1

1. These men were not kings
2. They were Magi, magicians or astrologers
3. Wise men possibly Zoroastrian from Persia
4. They had knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures
5. Could be traced back to the time of Daniel (Daniel 5:11)
6. They came seeking The Life-Giver King – Jesus

B. Their purpose was to worship Him (Jesus) – v. 2

1. They went throughout the city asking everyone they met
2. The present participle indicates that of a continuous action (saying)
3. They asked, “Where is He who has been born”
4. They knew of the birth because of what had been written by the prophet Micah
5. They saw the star in the east – (the star guided them to Jerusalem)
6. They came to worship The Life-Giver King – Jesus

C. Their praise was to Him (Jesus) v. 11

1. Notice where they are – in the house – these “wise men” were not there at His birth
2. Notice who the “wise men” saw when they entered the house – they saw the Child with Mary His mother
3. Notice the response of the “wise men” when they saw the Child – they fell to the ground and worshiped Him
4. Notice that the “wise men” did not worship Mary His mother
5. Notice that they gave their praise to The Life-Giver King – Jesus
6. They came to worship The Life-Giver King – Jesus

D. Their presentations were to Him (Jesus) – v. 11

1. They opened their treasures
2. They presented to Him gifts suitable for a king
 - Gold – symbolizing the deity of Christ
 - Frankincense – was a fragrance symbolizing the purity of Christ
 - Myrrh – ointment of death symbolizing the death of Christ
3. They did not exchange gifts among themselves
4. They presented their gifts to The Life-Giver King – Jesus

E. Their plans were changed because of Him (Jesus) v. 12

1. Being warned by God in a dream (divine guidance)
2. Not to return to Herod (Herod wanted to kill the Child)
3. The “wise men” left for their own country by another way

How can we today be like the “wise men?” –

Follow His plan –

Fulfill His purpose –

Function in His power -

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
PRAYER
Revival
2022
“..TOGETHER WE PRAY..”
JAN 4-6 @ 7PM
7350 T.C. Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77088
#LWFCHouston
www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
28TH
JAN. 9, 2022 1994 2022 8 & 11 A.M.
ANNIVERSARY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Eunice Johnson & family, Lula Walker & family, Carlton Lopes & family, and Carolyn Hadnot & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, and Rutha Patrick.

Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12